

07/28/00  
jc872 U.S. PTO

07-31-00

A

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

PTO/SB/05 (12/97)  
Approved for use through 09/30/00. OMB 0651-0032  
Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<b>UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL</b>  (Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))	Attorney Docket No.	47097-00014	Total Pages	
	First Named Inventor or Application Identifier			
	KIRK BELMONT			
	Express Mail Label No.	EL566135885US		

07/28/00  
09/62772

<b>APPLICATION ELEMENTS</b> See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.	<b>ADDRESS TO:</b> <b>Assistant Commissioner for Patents</b> <b>Box Patent Application</b> <b>Washington, DC 20231</b>
<div>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form (Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)</div> <div>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification [Total Pages 20] (preferred arrangement set forth below)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Descriptive title of the Invention</li><li>- Cross References to Related Applications</li><li>- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R &amp; D Invention</li><li>- Reference to Microfiche Appendix</li><li>- Background of the Invention</li><li>- Brief Summary of the Invention</li><li>- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)</li><li>- Detailed Description</li><li>- Claim(s)</li><li>- Abstract of the Disclosure</li></ul></div> <div>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total Sheets 6]</div> <div>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 2]<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy)</li><li>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed) [Note Box 5 below]<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. <input type="checkbox"/> DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).</li></ul></li></ul></div> <div>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked) The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.</div> <div>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)</div> <div>7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy</li><li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)</li><li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above copies</li></ul></div>	
<b>Accompanying Application Parts</b> <div>8. <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet &amp; document(s))</div> <div>9. <input type="checkbox"/> 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney (when there is an assignee)</div> <div>10. <input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document (if applicable)</div> <div>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Citations</div> <div>12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment</div> <div>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)</div> <div>14. <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Statement filed in prior application, Statement(s) Status still proper and desired</div> <div>15. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)</div> <div>16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Check in the amount of \$996.00 Response to 7/11/00 Office Action in 09/307.843</div>	

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:  
☐ Continuation ☒ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: 09/ 307,843

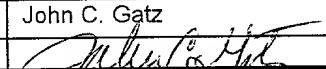
<b>18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number or Bar Code Label (Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here) or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New correspondence address below					
NAME	Ronald B Coolley				
ADDRESS	Jenkins & Gilchrist 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3200				
CITY	Dallas	STATE	TX	ZIP CODE	75202-2799
COUNTRY	USA	TELEPHONE	312-425-3900	FAX	713 855-4300

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box CPA, Washington, DC 20231.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<b>FEE TRANSMITTAL</b>		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		Application Number	Unknown
		Filing Date	July 28, 2000
		First Named Inventor	Kirk Belmont
		Group Art Unit	Unknown
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT		(\$)	996.00
		Attorney Docket Number	47097-00014USD1

<b>METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)</b>		<b>FEE CALCULATION (continued)</b>																																																																																																																																																																																					
1. <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to: Deposit Account Number <b>10-0447/47097-00014USD1</b> Deposit Account Name <b>Jenkins &amp; Gilchrist</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 <input type="checkbox"/> Charge the Issue Fee Set in 37 CFR 1.18 at the Mailing of the Notice of Allowance, 37 CFR 1.31(b)		<b>3. ADDITIONAL FEES</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Large Fee Code</th> <th>Entity Fee (\$)</th> <th>Small Fee Code</th> <th>Entity Fee (\$)</th> <th>Fee Description</th> <th>Fee Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>105</td> <td>130</td> <td>205</td> <td>65</td> <td>Surcharge - late filing fee or oath</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>127</td> <td>50</td> <td>227</td> <td>25</td> <td>Surcharge - late provisional filing or cover sheet.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>139</td> <td>130</td> <td>139</td> <td>130</td> <td>Non-English specification</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>147</td> <td>2,520</td> <td>147</td> <td>2,520</td> <td>For filing a request for reexamination</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>112</td> <td>920</td> <td>112</td> <td>920</td> <td>Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>113</td> <td>1,840</td> <td>113</td> <td>1,840</td> <td>Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>115</td> <td>110</td> <td>215</td> <td>55</td> <td>Extension for response within first month</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>116</td> <td>380</td> <td>216</td> <td>190</td> <td>Extension for response within second month</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>117</td> <td>870</td> <td>217</td> <td>435</td> <td>Extension for response within third month</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>118</td> <td>1,360</td> <td>218</td> <td>680</td> <td>Extension for response within fourth month</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>119</td> <td>300</td> <td>219</td> <td>150</td> <td>Notice of Appeal</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>120</td> <td>300</td> <td>220</td> <td>150</td> <td>Filing a brief in support of an appeal</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>121</td> <td>260</td> <td>221</td> <td>130</td> <td>Request for oral hearing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>138</td> <td>1,510</td> <td>138</td> <td>1,510</td> <td>Petition to institute a public use proceeding</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>140</td> <td>110</td> <td>240</td> <td>55</td> <td>Petition to revive unavoidably abandoned application</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>141</td> <td>1,210</td> <td>241</td> <td>605</td> <td>Petition to revive unintentionally abandoned application</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>142</td> <td>1,210</td> <td>242</td> <td>605</td> <td>Utility issue fee (or reissue)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>143</td> <td>430</td> <td>243</td> <td>215</td> <td>Design issue fee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>144</td> <td>580</td> <td>244</td> <td>290</td> <td>Plant issue fee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>122</td> <td>130</td> <td>122</td> <td>130</td> <td>Petitions to the Commissioner</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>123</td> <td>50</td> <td>123</td> <td>50</td> <td>Petitions related to provisional applications</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>126</td> <td>240</td> <td>126</td> <td>240</td> <td>Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>581</td> <td>40</td> <td>581</td> <td>40</td> <td>Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>146</td> <td>760</td> <td>246</td> <td>380</td> <td>Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>149</td> <td>760</td> <td>249</td> <td>380</td> <td>For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Other fee (specify) _____</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Other fee (specify) _____</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><b>SUBTOTAL (3)</b></td> <td><b>(\$)</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Large Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid	105	130	205	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath		127	50	227	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing or cover sheet.		139	130	139	130	Non-English specification		147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination		112	920	112	920	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action		113	1,840	113	1,840	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action		115	110	215	55	Extension for response within first month		116	380	216	190	Extension for response within second month		117	870	217	435	Extension for response within third month		118	1,360	218	680	Extension for response within fourth month		119	300	219	150	Notice of Appeal		120	300	220	150	Filing a brief in support of an appeal		121	260	221	130	Request for oral hearing		138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding		140	110	240	55	Petition to revive unavoidably abandoned application		141	1,210	241	605	Petition to revive unintentionally abandoned application		142	1,210	242	605	Utility issue fee (or reissue)		143	430	243	215	Design issue fee		144	580	244	290	Plant issue fee		122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner		123	50	123	50	Petitions related to provisional applications		126	240	126	240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt		581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)		146	760	246	380	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))		149	760	249	380	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))		Other fee (specify) _____						Other fee (specify) _____						<b>SUBTOTAL (3)</b>				<b>(\$)</b>		* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid					
Large Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid																																																																																																																																																																																		
105	130	205	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath																																																																																																																																																																																			
127	50	227	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing or cover sheet.																																																																																																																																																																																			
139	130	139	130	Non-English specification																																																																																																																																																																																			
147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination																																																																																																																																																																																			
112	920	112	920	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action																																																																																																																																																																																			
113	1,840	113	1,840	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action																																																																																																																																																																																			
115	110	215	55	Extension for response within first month																																																																																																																																																																																			
116	380	216	190	Extension for response within second month																																																																																																																																																																																			
117	870	217	435	Extension for response within third month																																																																																																																																																																																			
118	1,360	218	680	Extension for response within fourth month																																																																																																																																																																																			
119	300	219	150	Notice of Appeal																																																																																																																																																																																			
120	300	220	150	Filing a brief in support of an appeal																																																																																																																																																																																			
121	260	221	130	Request for oral hearing																																																																																																																																																																																			
138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding																																																																																																																																																																																			
140	110	240	55	Petition to revive unavoidably abandoned application																																																																																																																																																																																			
141	1,210	241	605	Petition to revive unintentionally abandoned application																																																																																																																																																																																			
142	1,210	242	605	Utility issue fee (or reissue)																																																																																																																																																																																			
143	430	243	215	Design issue fee																																																																																																																																																																																			
144	580	244	290	Plant issue fee																																																																																																																																																																																			
122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner																																																																																																																																																																																			
123	50	123	50	Petitions related to provisional applications																																																																																																																																																																																			
126	240	126	240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt																																																																																																																																																																																			
581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)																																																																																																																																																																																			
146	760	246	380	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))																																																																																																																																																																																			
149	760	249	380	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))																																																																																																																																																																																			
Other fee (specify) _____																																																																																																																																																																																							
Other fee (specify) _____																																																																																																																																																																																							
<b>SUBTOTAL (3)</b>				<b>(\$)</b>																																																																																																																																																																																			
* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid																																																																																																																																																																																							
2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other																																																																																																																																																																																							
<b>FEE CALCULATION (fees effective 11/10/98)</b>																																																																																																																																																																																							
<b>1. FILING FEE</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Large Fee Code</th> <th>Entity Fee (\$)</th> <th>Small Fee Code</th> <th>Entity Fee (\$)</th> <th>Fee Description</th> <th>Fee Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>101</td> <td>690</td> <td>201</td> <td>345</td> <td>Utility filing fee</td> <td>690.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>106</td> <td>310</td> <td>206</td> <td>155</td> <td>Design filing fee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>107</td> <td>480</td> <td>207</td> <td>240</td> <td>Plant filing fee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>108</td> <td>690</td> <td>208</td> <td>345</td> <td>Reissue filing fee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>114</td> <td>150</td> <td>214</td> <td>75</td> <td>Provisional filing fee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><b>SUBTOTAL (1)</b></td> <td><b>(\$)</b></td> <td><b>690.00</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Large Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid	101	690	201	345	Utility filing fee	690.00	106	310	206	155	Design filing fee		107	480	207	240	Plant filing fee		108	690	208	345	Reissue filing fee		114	150	214	75	Provisional filing fee		<b>SUBTOTAL (1)</b>				<b>(\$)</b>	<b>690.00</b>																																																																																																																																												
Large Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid																																																																																																																																																																																		
101	690	201	345	Utility filing fee	690.00																																																																																																																																																																																		
106	310	206	155	Design filing fee																																																																																																																																																																																			
107	480	207	240	Plant filing fee																																																																																																																																																																																			
108	690	208	345	Reissue filing fee																																																																																																																																																																																			
114	150	214	75	Provisional filing fee																																																																																																																																																																																			
<b>SUBTOTAL (1)</b>				<b>(\$)</b>	<b>690.00</b>																																																																																																																																																																																		
<b>2. CLAIMS</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Large Fee Code</th> <th>Entity Fee (\$)</th> <th>Small Fee Code</th> <th>Entity Fee (\$)</th> <th>Fee Description</th> <th>Fee Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>103</td> <td>18</td> <td>203</td> <td>9</td> <td>Claims in excess of 20</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>102</td> <td>78</td> <td>202</td> <td>39</td> <td>Independent claims in excess of 3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>104</td> <td>260</td> <td>204</td> <td>130</td> <td>Multiple dependent claim</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>109</td> <td>78</td> <td>209</td> <td>39</td> <td>Reissue independent claims over original patent</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>110</td> <td>22</td> <td>18</td> <td>9</td> <td>Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><b>SUBTOTAL (2)</b></td> <td><b>(\$)</b></td> <td><b>306.00</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Large Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid	103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of 20		102	78	202	39	Independent claims in excess of 3		104	260	204	130	Multiple dependent claim		109	78	209	39	Reissue independent claims over original patent		110	22	18	9	Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent		<b>SUBTOTAL (2)</b>				<b>(\$)</b>	<b>306.00</b>																																																																																																																																												
Large Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid																																																																																																																																																																																		
103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of 20																																																																																																																																																																																			
102	78	202	39	Independent claims in excess of 3																																																																																																																																																																																			
104	260	204	130	Multiple dependent claim																																																																																																																																																																																			
109	78	209	39	Reissue independent claims over original patent																																																																																																																																																																																			
110	22	18	9	Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent																																																																																																																																																																																			
<b>SUBTOTAL (2)</b>				<b>(\$)</b>	<b>306.00</b>																																																																																																																																																																																		

SUBMITTED BY		Complete (if applicable)	
Typed or Printed Name	John C. Gatz	Reg. Number	41,774
Signature		Date	07/28/00
		Deposit Acct User ID	10-0447/47097-00014USD1

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Divisional Application of: )  
Serial No: 09/307,843 of Kirk Belmont, et al. ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Serial No.: Unassigned ) Examiner: Unassigned  
Filed: July 27, 2000 ) Atty. Docket No.: 47097-00014USD1  
For: FASTENER WITH SLIDER THEREON )  
FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING )  
RECLOSABLE BAGS )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
Attention: BOX PATENT APPLICATION

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**  
37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

July 28, 2000  
Date

Signature

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**IN THE TITLE:**

Please delete the Title of the above-identified patent application and replace with the following:

-- Method of Manufacturing Recloseable Packages --

## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At the first line of the section entitled "Related Applications" (page 2, line 8 of the present application), please add the sentence: -- This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/307,843, filed May 10, 1999. --

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-26 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 27, 31, 34, 36 and 38 as follows:

27. (amended) A method of manufacturing recloseable packages, said method comprising:

providing a first wall panel opposing a second wall panel;

positioning a zipper between said first and second wall panels, said zipper including a first track with a first profile and a second track with a second profile, said first and second profiles being releasably engageable to each other, and a slider slidably mounted to said zipper for movement between a closed position and an open position, said first and second profiles being engaged to each other while said slider is in said closed position, said first and second profiles being disengaged from each other in response to movement of said slider from said closed position to said open position;

adhering said first profile of said zipper to said first wall panel;

forming first and second spaced side seals in said [web] first and second wall panels to define first and second sidewalls of said package;

adhering said second profile of said zipper to said second wall panel; and

cutting [said web along] said side seals to separate adjacent packages.

31. (amended) The method of claim 27 further including a step of filling said package with a product [through a mouth of said web after forming said first and second side seals].

34. (amended) The method of claim 33 further including a step of filling said package with a product [through said mouth] before adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

36. (amended) The method of claim 35 further including a step of filling said package with a product [through said mouth] before adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

38. (amended) The method of claim 37 further including a step of filling said package with a product [through said mouth] after adhering said first profile to said first wall panel and after adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

Please add the following new claims:

-- 41. The method of claim 27 wherein said zipper has a tamper resistant element.

42. The method of claim 27 further including a step of mounting said slider onto said zipper.

43. The method of claim 42 wherein said slider is mounted onto said zipper after said first profile of said zipper is adhered to said first wall panel.

44. The method of claim 42 wherein said slider is mounted onto said zipper after said first profile of said zipper is adhered to said first wall panel and said second profile is adhered to said second wall panel.

45. A method of placing a product in recloseable packages, said method comprising:  
providing a first wall panel opposing a second wall panel;  
positioning a zipper at a predetermined orientation, said zipper including a first track with a first profile and a second track with a second profile, said first and second profiles being releasably engageable to each other;

mounting a slider onto said zipper, said slider slidably mounted to said zipper for movement between a closed position and an open position, said first and second profiles being engaged to each other while said slider is in said closed position, said first and second profiles being disengaged from each other in response to movement of said slider from said closed position to said open position;

adhering said first profile of said zipper to said first wall panel;

forming first and second spaced side seals in said first and second wall panels to define first and second sidewalls of said package;

filling said package with a product; and

adhering said second profile of said zipper to said second wall panel.

46. The method of claim 45 wherein said slider is mounted onto said zipper after said first profile of said zipper is adhered to said first wall panel.

47. The method of claim 45 wherein said slider is mounted onto said zipper after said first profile of said zipper is adhered to said first wall panel and said second profile is adhered to said second wall panel.

48. The method of claim 45 further including a step of feeding a zipper arrangement between said first and second wall panels before positioning said zipper, said zipper arrangement comprising a plurality of said zippers connected in line with each other.

49. The method of claim 48 wherein said zipper arrangement includes a plurality of sliders slidably mounted to said zipper.

50. The method of claim 45 further including a step of feeding a sheet of said zippers to between said first and second wall panels before positioning said zipper, said sheet of zippers comprising a plurality of said zippers releasably adhered to each other.

51. The method of claim 50 wherein each of said zippers includes a slider slidably mounted to said zipper.

52. The method of claim 45 wherein said zipper is positioned and said first profile of said zipper is adhered to said first wall panel before providing said first and second wall panels.

53. The method of claim 45 further including a step of cutting said side seals to separate adjacent packages.

54. The method of claim 45 wherein said first and second wall panels are provided by folding a web of material.

55. The method of claim 45 wherein said zipper is positioned at a mouth of said first and second wall panels.

56. The method of claim 55 wherein said package is filled with a product before adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

57. The method of claim 45 wherein said zipper is positioned below and adjacent a mouth of said first and second wall panels.

58. The method of claim 57 wherein said package is filled with a product before adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

59. The method of claim 45 wherein said zipper is positioned at a bottom of said first and second wall panels.

60. The method of claim 59 wherein said package is filled with a product after adhering said first profile to said first wall panel and after adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

61. The method of claim 45 wherein said zipper has a tamper resistant element.

62. A method of manufacturing reclosable bags, said method comprising:

providing a plurality of fastener segments connected to each other, each of said fastener segments including first and second interlockable profiles, said first profile including a rib, said second profile including a groove for receiving said rib;

mounting a slider to each of said fastener segments, said slider being adapted to open and close its respective fastener segment;

providing a continuous web of plastic packaging material;

after mounting said slider to each of said fastener segments, successively attaching said slider-carrying fastener segments to said continuous web;

forming said continuous web into the reclosable bags; and

filling the reclosable bags with a product.

63. The method of claim 62, wherein said step of forming said continuous web into the reclosable bags includes folding said continuous web to form opposing walls of said reclosable bags and sealing said folded web to provide the reclosable bags with respective distinct interior compartments for receiving the product. --

## REMARKS

Claims 1-26 have been cancelled without prejudice since they are being pursued in the application from which this divisional is based on. See attached Response to Office Action dated July 11, 2000 for Serial No. 09/307,843. Claims 27, 31, 34, 36 and 38 have been amended. Claims 41-63 have been added. Thus, claims 27-63 are in the application after entry of the above amendments. The proposed claims are believed to be consistent with the specification and drawings, and are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

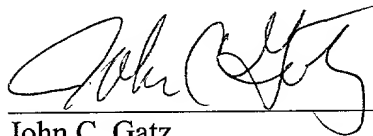


## CONCLUSION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit Account No. 10-0447 (47097-00014USD1) for any fees inadvertently omitted which may be necessary now or during the pendency of this application, except for the issue fee.

Dated: July 28, 2000

Respectfully submitted,



John C. Gatz  
Reg. No. 41,774  
JENKENS & GILCHRIST  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Suite 3200  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2799  
312.744.0090

Attorney for Applicants

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Belmont et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3626  
Serial No.: 09/307,843 )  
 ) Examiner: V. Sakran  
Filed: May 10, 1999 )  
 ) Atty. Docket No.: 47097-00014  
For: FASTENER WITH SLIDER THEREON )  
FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING )  
RECLOSABLE BAGS )

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JULY 11, 2000**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
37 C.F.R. 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted via facsimile to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, Attention: Victor Sakran at (703) 305-3597 on the date below and a copy sent via First Class Mail:

7/27/00  
Date

Signature

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 11, 2000, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 27-61, 67 and 68 as being directed to a non-elected invention without prejudice.

**REMARKS**

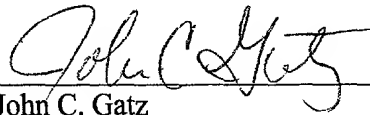
Claims 1-68 are pending in the application. Claims 1-26 and 62-66 have been elected in response to the election/restriction requirement. Claims 27-61, 67 and 68 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants have filed a divisional application to pursue these claims under separate cover.

**CONCLUSION**

The Applicants submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance and action toward that end is earnestly solicited. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit Account No. 10-0447 (47097-00014) for any fees inadvertently omitted which may be necessary now or during the pendency of this application, except for the issue fee.

Dated: July 27, 2000

Respectfully submitted,



John C. Gatz

Reg. No. 41,774

JENKENS & GILCHRIST

1445 Ross Avenue

Suite 3200

Dallas, Texas 75202-2799

312.744.0090

Attorney for Applicants

**PATENT**  
**47097-00014USD1**

**APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT**

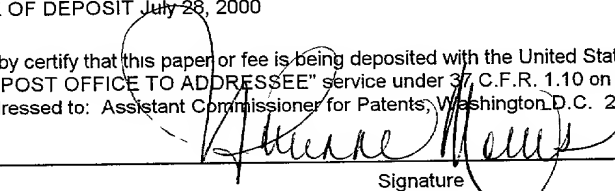
**for**

**FASTENER WITH SLIDER THEREON FOR USE IN  
MANUFACTURING RECLOSEABLE BAGS**

**by**

**Kirk E. Belmont**

**Ian J. Barclay**

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL
NUMBER EL566135885US
DATE OF DEPOSIT July 28, 2000
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 39 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231.
 Signature

**FASTENER WITH SLIDER THEREON FOR USE IN  
MANUFACTURING RECLOSEABLE BAGS**

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates generally to the packaging industry. More particularly, the invention relates to a fastener with a slider for use in a recloseable package.

**RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is related to an application entitled "Assembly and Accumulation of Sliders for Profiled Zippers" (Docket No PCOS013); and to an application entitled "Zipper and Zipper Arrangements and Methods of Manufacturing the Same" (Docket No. PCOS015). Both applications were filed concurrently with U.S. Serial No. 09/307,843, and are assigned to the same assignee as the assignee of this application. Both applications and their disclosures are incorporated herein in their entirety.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Plastic packages are popular for storing food products and other items. Recloseable packages that can be securely closed and reopened are particularly popular due to their ability to maintain freshness of the food stored in the package and/or to minimize leakage into and out of the package. Thus, recloseable packages are very common, especially in the food industry. Recloseable packages are typically made to be recloseable via the use of a recloseable feature such as a resealable adhesive seal or a recloseable zipper. Recloseable zippers can be opened and closed either by pressure or by the use of an auxiliary slider mechanism. These packages are used one at a time by consumers and large numbers of these packages are also used by businesses to package items that are then sold to consumers. An example of a business that uses a large number of these packages is a food producer and packer. For example, nuts, candy, snacks, salt, cheese, other food and non-food products can be packed in these packages by form, fill and seal machines and sold to consumers.

For a variety of reasons, including difficulty in closing the zipper, some consumers prefer an easier way to open and close the zippers on these packages. As a result, zipper packages with the slider to open and close the zipper have become popular with consumers. Product manufacturers, however, have rarely used the zipper

with slider in their form, fill and seal machines because there has not been a way to assemble and accumulate the zippers with sliders in a configuration that can be easily and quickly fed to the form, fill and seal machines. A need therefore exists for an efficient method and apparatus for providing products within a recloseable package.

- 5 Additionally, a need exists for a fastener with slider thereon that can easily and efficiently be used in the manufacture of recloseable bags.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a fastener arrangement for use in manufacturing recloseable bags. The fastener arrangement comprises a first  
10 fastener connected to a second fastener. Each of the fasteners comprise a male track with a male profile, a female track with a female profile and a slider. The male and female profiles are releasably engageable to each other. The slider is slidably mounted to the fastener for movement between a closed position and an open position. The male and female profiles are engaged to each other while the slider is in the closed  
15 position. The male and female profiles are disengaged from each other in response to movement of said slider from the closed position to the open position. The first fastener may be connected in line with the second fastener. Additionally, the first fastener may be connected to the second fastener such that the male and female tracks of the first fastener are substantially parallel to the male and female tracks of the  
20 second fastener.

In another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a sheet of zippers for use in manufacturing recloseable packages. The sheet of zippers comprises a first zipper releasably connected to a second zipper. The first zipper and the second zipper both have a male track with a male profile, a female track with female profile and a  
25 slider. The male and female profiles are releasably engageable to each other. The slider is slidably mounted to the zipper for movement between a closed position and an open position. The male and female profiles are engaged to each other while the slider is in the closed position. The male and female profiles are disengaged from each other in response to movement of the slider from the closed position to the open position.  
30 The first zipper and second zipper may have a length approximately equal to a length of the recloseable package. The first zipper is releasably adhered to the second zipper with a releasable adhesive or with a releasable seal. The first zipper may be connected

to the second zipper such that the male and female tracks of the first zipper are substantially parallel to the male and female tracks of the second zipper. Each of the zippers may further comprise a first fin extending downward from the male profile and a second fin extending downward from the female profile. The first zipper may be  
5 connected to the second zipper by releasably adhering one of the fins of the first zipper to one of the profiles of the second zipper.

In a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a zipper arrangement for use in manufacturing recloseable bags. The zipper arrangement comprises a male track with a male profile, a female track with a female profile and a  
10 plurality of sliders. The male and female profiles are releasably engageable to each other. The plurality of sliders are slidably mounted to the engageable male and female tracks for movement between a closed position and an open position. The male and female profiles are engaged to each other while the slider is in the closed position. The male and female profiles are disengaged from each other in response to movement of  
15 said slider from said closed position to said open position. One of the sliders is positioned in a length of the male and female track corresponding to a length of one of the recloseable bags.

In a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of manufacturing recloseable packages. The method comprises providing a first wall  
20 panel opposing a second wall panel, positioning a zipper with a slider between the first and second wall panels, adhering a first profile of the zipper to the first wall panel, forming a first and a second side seal in the web to define a first and a second sidewall of the package, adhering the second profile of the zipper to the second wall panel at the mouth, and cutting the side seal to separate adjacent packages. The method may  
25 further include feeding a zipper arrangement between the wall panels before positioning the zipper. The zipper arrangement comprises a continuous male track and a continuous female track with a plurality of sliders. Alternatively, the method may further include feeding a sheet of zippers with sliders between the wall panels before positioning the zipper. The sheet of zippers comprises a plurality of zippers releasably  
30 adhered to each other. The method may further include filling the package with a product.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent upon reading the following detailed description and upon reference to the drawings which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a fastener with a slider for a recloseable bag;

5 FIG. 2 is a cross section of the fastener of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3a is a process diagram of a form, fill and seal process;

FIG. 3b is a cross section of another embodiment of the fastener position for the form, fill and seal process of FIG. 3a;

10 FIG. 3c is a cross section of another embodiment of the fastener position for the form, fill and seal process of FIG. 3a;

FIG. 3d is a cross section of another embodiment of the fastener position for the form, fill and seal process of FIG. 3a;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a zipper arrangement;

FIG. 5 is a roll of the zipper arrangement of FIG. 4;

15 FIG. 6 is a process diagram of zipper arrangement of FIG. 4 fed to the form, fill and seal process;

FIG. 7 is a process diagram for forming a sheet of fasteners;

FIG. 8a is a perspective view of a sheet of fasteners;

20 FIG. 8b is a cross section of two fasteners releasably adhered together of FIG. 8a;

FIG. 9 is a roll of the sheet of fasteners of FIG. 8a; and

FIG. 10 is a process diagram of the sheet of fasteners of FIG. 8a fed to the form, fill and seal process.

25 While the invention will be described in connection with certain preferred embodiments, it is not intended to limit the invention to the specific exemplary embodiments. On the contrary, it is intended to cover all alternatives, modifications, and equivalents as may be included within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

## 30 DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

Turning now to the drawings, FIG. 1 illustrates a mouth portion of a recloseable package 10 having a slider 12 on a fastener or zipper arrangement 14.



FIG. 2 illustrates the fastener or zipper arrangement 14 of the mouth portion of the recloseable bag along line A-A. The mouth portion of the recloseable package 10 includes a pair of opposing wall panels 16 and 18 which make up a package body 20 and define a receptacle space 22. The wall panels 16 and 18 may comprise polymeric film, multilayer and multi-component laminations or coextrusions. Connected to the wall panel 16 is a male track 24 having a male profile 26 and a first fin portion 28 extending downward from the male profile 26. Connected to the other wall panel 18 is a female track 30 having a female profile 32 and a second fin portion 34 extending downward from the female profile 32. The male and female profiles 26 and 32 are releasably engageable with each other to provide a recloseable seal to the package.

In the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 2, the lower edges of the first and second fin portions 28 and 34 are joined to each other along a one-time breakable preferential area of weakness or preferential tear area 38 to for a one-time openable tamper evident feature 40. The joined first and second fin portions 28 and 34 have a generally U-shaped or V-shaped cross-sectional configuration. The tamper evident feature 40 is described in detail in Serial No. 08/694,093 to Thomas et al., which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. Other embodiments of the fastener 14 may not include the tamper evident feature leaving the fin portions 28 and 34 disconnected.

The recloseable package 10 has the slider 12 (see FIG. 1) slidably mounted to the fastener 14 for movement between a closed position and an open position. The male and female profiles 26 and 32 are engaged to each other while the slider 12 is in the closed position, and movement of the slider 12 from the closed position to the open position disengages the profiles 26 and 32 from each other (see FIG. 2). FIG. 1 depicts the open position to the left of the slider 12 and the closed position to the right of the slider 12. The composition and manner of operation of the fastener with slider arrangement is described in detail in U.S. Patent No. 5,067,208 to Herrington, Jr. et al., which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIG. 3a illustrates one embodiment of a form, fill and seal process for providing a product within a recloseable package having the fastener 14 with slider 12. The process folds a web of packaging material 50, such as polymeric film, multi-layer and multi-component laminations or coextrusions consisting of polymer, paper, metalized polymer or foil in any combination. The folded web 50 forms the package body 20 and

defines the receptacle space 22 bounded by the opposing wall panels 16 and 18 and a package bottom 52. The process also positions the fastener 14 with the slidably mounted slider 12 at the mouth of the recloseable package between the opposing wall panels 16 and 18. The fastener 14 with slider 12 is preferably in the closed position when fed to the form, fill and seal apparatus. As depicted in FIG. 3a, a top seal bar 56 moves back and forth to adhere the wall panel 16 to the male track 24 forming a first top seal 54. The first top seal 54 between the wall panel 16 and male track 24 is also depicted in FIG. 2. The fastener 14 may be adhered to one of the wall panels of the web 50 by heat seal, adhesive or any other appropriate method to form a strong preferably hermetic first top seal 54 (some recloseable packages require vents for air removal).

After the fastener 14 with slider 12 is attached to the wall panel 16, a vertical seal bar 58 joins the wall panels 16 and 18 together to form a side seal 60 that defines a side wall 62 of the recloseable package. The distance between adjacent side seals 60 should be approximately equal to the desired width W of the recloseable package. The side seal 60 may be formed by heat seal, adhesive or any other appropriate method to form a strong preferably hermetic seal. In the embodiment depicted, the side seal 60 is preferably formed at the notch 63 in the zipper arrangement 14 which allows easier side sealing since the vertical seal bar 58 does not have to flatten or crush the profiles 26 and 32 of the fastener 14 in order to side seal the web 50. The notch 63 will be described below. Once the sidewalls 62 of the package are defined by the side seal 60, a product 64 fills the receptacle space 22 of the package. For illustration, FIG. 3a shows a funnel 66 directing the product 64, into the package. The product 64 may be nuts, candy, snacks, salt, cheese and other food and non-food products.

After the product 64 fills the package, a second top seal bar 68 adheres the fastener 14 to the other wall panel 18 preferably hermetically sealing the product 64 within the package. The second top seal bar 68 moves back and forth to provide a second top seal 70 that adheres the female track 30 to the wall panel 18. The second top seal 70 between the wall panel 18 and female track 30 is also depicted in FIG. 2. The fastener 14 may be adhered to the wall panels of the web 50 by heat seal, adhesive or any other appropriate method to form a strong preferably hermetic second top seal 70. To divide the adjacent packages of product 64 that are connected by the side seal

60, a knife 72 cuts the side seal 60 such that the side walls 60 of each package remain secure.

An end termination or stop (not shown) may be added to the ends of the fastener 14 for inhibiting or preventing the slider 16 from going past the ends of the zipper. The end terminations also hold the male and female profiles together to resist stresses applied to the profiles during normal use of the plastic bag. One type of end termination is in the form of a strap/clip that wraps over a top of a zipper. Further information concerning such an end termination may be found in U.S. Patent No. 5,067,208, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. One end of the strap is provided with a rivet-like member that penetrates through the zipper fins and into a cooperating opening at the other end of the strap. Other types of end termination are disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,482,375, 5,448,807, 5,442,837, 5,405,478, 5,161,286, 5,131,121 and 5,088,971, which are each incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

The form, fill and seal process may vary from the illustration of FIG. 3a and the following describes some of the possible variations. In another embodiment of the form, fill and seal process, the side seal 60 may be cut before filling the package with the product 64. In this embodiment, the process folds the web 50 and positions and top seals the fastener 14 to one of the wall panels 16. Next, the process forms and cuts the side seals 60. After the knife 72 cuts the side seals 60, the product 64 fills the package and the second top seal 70 closes the package. In another embodiment of the form, fill and seal process, the fastener may be sealed to one of the wall panels 16 prior to the folding of the web 50.

Other embodiments of the form, fill and seal process position the fastener 14 in different locations than the mouth of the web 50. FIG. 3b depicts the fastener 14 position prior to being attached to one of the wall panels 16 and 18. The fastener 14 is positioned below the mouth 74 of the web 50. In this embodiment, the recloseable package may be formed using the steps described above. Additionally in the embodiment of FIG. 3b, the fin portions 28 and 34 are not connected to provide the tamper evident feature. For the embodiment of FIG. 3b, the tamper evident feature may be provided by sealing the wall panels 16 and 18 together above the fastener 14 at the mouth 74.

FIG. 3c illustrates another alternate position for the fastener 14 adjacent the bottom 52 of the web 50. The fastener 14 has an inverted orientation compared to the orientation of the fastener in FIGS. 3a-b. More specifically, the male and female profiles are adjacent to the bottom 52 of the package with the fins extending into the body of the package. For this embodiment, the fastener 14 should be sealed to both wall panels 16 and 18 before filling the package with the product 64. For example, the process folds the web 50 and positions the fastener 14 at the bottom 52 of the web 50 and seals the fastener 14 to both of the wall panels 16 and 18. Next, the process forms and cuts the side seals 60, and the product 64 fills the package. Finally, the process seals the wall panels 16 and 18 together at the mouth 74. Alternatively, the process fills the package with the product prior to cutting the side seals 60.

FIG. 3d illustrates another alternate position for the fastener 14 and embodiment for the form, fill and seal process. In this embodiment, a pair of separate webs 76 and 77 provide the wall panels 16 and 18. The process positions the fastener 14 with inverted orientation similar to FIG. 3c at the bottom of the wall panels 16 and 18 opposite the mouth 74 and seals the fastener 14 to both wall panels 16 and 18 before filling the package with the product 64. For example, the process provides a pair of webs 76 and 77 and seals the fastener 14 to both of the wall panels 16 and 18 at the bottom of the webs. Next, the process forms and cuts the side seals 60, and the product 64 fills the package. Finally, the process seals the wall panels 16 and 18 together at the mouth 74. Alternatively, the process fills the package with the product prior to cutting the side seals 60. In another embodiment of the form, fill and seal process, the fastener 14 may be sealed to one of the webs 76 prior to opposing the web 76 with the web 77.

In order to efficiently operate the form, fill and seal process described above in conjunction with FIGS. 3a-d, the fastener 14 with slider 12 should be readily fed to the form, fill and seal process. FIGS. 4-5 illustrate one embodiment for the supply of the fastener 14 with slider 12. FIG. 4 illustrates a zipper arrangement 14 with sliders 12 slidably mounted to the zipper 14 at predetermined distances d. The predetermined distance d is approximately equal to the distance between the center of the side seals 60 of the recloseable packages to insure that each package includes the slider 12. The zipper arrangement 14 comprises a continuous male track 24 having a discontinuous

male profile 26 and a continuous first fin portion 28 and a continuous female track 30 having a discontinuous female profile 32 and a continuous second fin portion 34. In the embodiment depicted in FIG. 4, the first and second fin portions 28 and 34 are joined to each other along the one-time breakable preferential area of weakness 38 to provide the tamper evident feature. In another embodiment without the tamper evident feature, the first and second fin portions 28 and 34 are not joined to each other.

The zipper arrangement 14 may be formed by extruding the male track 24 and female track 30 together or separately and then joined. The sliders 12 are slidably mounted to the zipper 14 as described in detail in the patent application entitled "Zipper and Zipper Arrangements and Methods of Manufacturing the Same" (Docket No. PCOS015) which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. In the embodiment illustrated in the figures, the male and female profiles of the fastener are notched 63 to allow the slider to slidably mount the fastener 14. This notching provides the discontinuous male and female profiles 26 and 32 shown in FIG. 4. The slider may be mounted onto the fastener by other means other than the embodiment illustrated in the figures. For embodiments that mount the slider without notching, the male and female profiles of FIG. 4 would be continuous.

The zipper arrangement 14 with sliders 12 at predetermined intervals may be accumulated onto a roll 80 as illustrated in FIG. 5. The roll 80 has a cylindrical core 82 around which the zipper arrangement 14 with sliders 12 is wrapped. The roll 80 may also include a pair of sidewalls 84a and 84b at the ends of the cylindrical core 82 to hold the windings of the zipper arrangement 14 on the roll 80. Alternatively, the zipper arrangement 14 may be rolled upon itself to form a cylinder. The sliders 12 may be advantageously positioned along the zipper arrangement 14 such that the roll 80 occupies a minimum amount of space. Preferably, the sliders 12 will be positioned to prevent adjacent layers of sliders from abutting or laying on top of each other.

The roll 80 of the zipper arrangement 14 with sliders 12 is particularly useful for supplying the fastener or zipper 14 with slider 12 for the form, fill and seal process described above in conjunction with FIGS. 3a-d. The zipper arrangement 14 with spaced sliders 12 simply unwinds from the roll 80 feeding into the form, fill and seal process. FIG. 6 illustrates the zipper arrangement 14 with sliders 12 being adhered to

one of the wall panels 16 of the folded web 50. The unwound zipper arrangement 14 with sliders 12 is positioned at the mouth of the web 50 between the opposing wall panels 16 and 18. As depicted in FIG. 6, the first top seal bar 56 moves back and forth to attach a portion of the zipper arrangement 14 with slider 12 to the wall panel 16 to form the first top seal 54. FIG. 6 also illustrates another embodiment for the form, fill and seal process which includes another first top seal bar 86 opposite the other first top seal bar 56. The portion of the zipper arrangement 14 with slider 12 adjacent the wall panel 16 is positioned between the two first top seal bars 56 and 86 which move back and forth to sandwich the portion of the zipper with slider 12 and the wall panel 16 between the two first top seal bars 56 and 86 to adhere the portion of the zipper 14 with slider 12 to the wall panel 16.

In an alternative embodiment for the zipper arrangement, the zipper arrangement comprises a plurality of separate zipper segments connected end to end forming the zipper arrangement with sliders as depicted in FIG. 4. Each zipper includes the male track with male profile, female track with female profile, and the slider. Each zipper has a length approximately equal to the width of the recloseable package. The zippers are preferably joined together at the notch 63 by any appropriate means such as but not limited to releasably adhesives or seals and non-releasably adhesives or seals.

FIGS. 7-9 illustrate another embodiment for providing fasteners 14 with sliders 12 to the form, fill and seal process illustrated in FIGS. 3a-d. FIG. 7 illustrates a zipper arrangement 14 with sliders 12 slidably mounted at regular intervals, such as described in conjunction with FIG. 4. The intervals between the center of one slider to the center of an adjacent slider is approximately equal to the distance between the centers of adjacent side seals 60 to insure that each package includes the slider 12.

As depicted in FIG. 7, a knife 88 cuts the zipper arrangement 14 with sliders 12 into individual lengths 1. The individual lengths 1 are slightly larger than the width of the recloseable package, or in other words, substantially equal to the distance between the centers of adjacent side seals 60 to insure that each package includes the fastener. For the embodiment depicted, the notches are appropriately spaced for the knife 88 to make the cut at the notch 63.

FIG. 8a also depicts the individual lengths 1 of fasteners 14 with sliders 12 accumulated into a sheet 90. To accumulate the length of fastener 14 with slider 12, the fin 28 or 34 of one fastener 14 is releasably adhered to the profile 32 or 26 of an adjacent fastener 14 with slider 12. The fasteners are preferably positioned parallel to each other on the sheet 90. In one embodiment shown in FIG. 8b, a releasable adhesive 92 releasably adheres the adjacent fasteners 14 with sliders 12 to one another. In another embodiment, the profile 26 or 32 of one fasteners 14 with slider 12 is releasably sealed to the fin 34 or 28 of the adjacent fastener 14 with slider 12. The adjacent fasteners 14 of the sheet may be releasably adhered to each other by any appropriate means.

FIG. 9 illustrates the sheet 90 of the fasteners 14 with slider 12 wrapped into a roll 94 around a cylindrical core 96 or about itself to form a cylinder. The sheet 90 is preferably wrapped into a roll such that the parallel fasteners are parallel to the longitudinal axis of the cylinder. Alternating the location of the slider 12 on fastener 14 optimizes the number of wrapping on the cylindrical core 96 by preventing the sliders of adjacent layers from abutting or laying on top of each other. Additionally as depicted in FIG. 8a, the location of the slider 12 on its length of zipper 14 may be alternated on the sheet 90 in order to allow multiple sheets to be stacked on top of each other such that the stacked sheets 90 occupy as small a space as possible.

The roll 94 or individual sheets 90 of lengths of zipper 14 with slider 12 is particularly useful for feeding the fastener 14 with slider 12 for the form, fill and seal process described above in conjunction with FIGS. 3a-d. The fastener 14 with slider 12 may simply unwind from the roll 94 as the sheet 90 for the form, fill and seal process. FIG. 10 illustrates the sheet 90 of fasteners 14 with sliders 12 feeding the form, fill and seal process. One individual fastener 14 with slider 12 is removed from the sheet 90 and placed either pneumatically, mechanically or electro-mechanically between the wall panels 16 and 18 at the mouth of the web 50. As shown in FIG. 10, the fastener 14 with slider 12 is positioned between the two first top seal bars 56 and 86 which move back and forth to sandwich the fastener 14 and the wall panel 16 between the two first top seal bars 56 and 86 to adhere the fastener 14 with slider 12 to the wall panel 16. This adhering of the fastener 14 with slider 12 repeats with the next fastener 14 with slider 12 detaining from the sheet 90 and being positioned at the

mouth of the web 50. The next fastener 14 with slider 12 is preferably positioned immediately behind the last adhered fastener.

In another embodiment, the sheet of fasteners 90 may be formed and used in a slightly different manner than illustrated in FIGS. 7-10. In another embodiment, the  
5 knife 88 may make cuts to remove the notch 63 from the fastener 14. For this embodiment, the length of the fastener may be approximately equal to the width of the recloseable package. These fasteners may be fed to the form, fill and seal process as described above in conjunction with FIG. 10.

Although the zipper arrangement and sheet of fasteners has been described for  
10 use with the form, fill and seal process, the zipper arrangement and sheet of fasteners may be used in any recloseable packaging manufacturing process.

While the present invention has been described with reference to one or more particular embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that many changes may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.  
15 Each of these embodiments and obvious variations thereof is contemplated as falling within the spirit and scope of the claimed invention, which is set forth in the following claims.



**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A fastener arrangement for use in manufacturing recloseable bags comprising:

a first fastener;

5 a second fastener connected to said first fastener, each of said fasteners comprising a male track with a male profile and a female track with a female profile, said male and female profiles being releasably engageable to each other; and

10 a slider slidably mounted to each of said fasteners for movement between a closed position and an open position, said male and female profiles being engaged to each other while said slider is in said closed position, said male and female profiles being disengaged from each other in response to movement of said slider from said closed position to said open position.

15 2. The fastener arrangement of claim 1 wherein said first fastener is connected in line with said second fastener to form a continuous male track and a continuous female track.

20 3. The fastener arrangement of claim 1 wherein said first fastener is releasably connected in line with said second fastener to form a continuous male track and a continuous female track.

4. The fastener arrangement of claim 1 wherein each of said fasteners further comprises a first fin extending downward from said male profile and a second fin extending downward from said female profile, said first fastener connected in line with said second fastener to form a continuous first fin and a continuous second fin.

25 5. The fastener arrangement of claim 4 wherein said continuous first fin and said continuous second fin are joined to each other along a one-time breakable preferential area of weakness.

6. The fastener arrangement of claim 2 wherein said first and said second fasteners are wrapped about a roll.

7. The fastener arrangement of claim 1 wherein said first fastener and said second fastener each have a length approximately equal to a width of said recloseable bag.

8. The fastener arrangement of claim 1 wherein said first fastener is  
5 releasably adhered to said second fastener, said male and female tracks of said first fastener being substantially parallel to said male and female tracks of said second fastener.

9. The fastener arrangement of claim 8 wherein said first fastener and said second fastener are rolled into a cylinder having a longitudinal axis, said male and  
10 female tracks of said first and said second fasteners being substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.

10. The fastener arrangement of claim 8 wherein said first fastener is releasably adhered to said second fastener by a releasable adhesive.

11. The fastener arrangement of claim 8 wherein said first fastener is  
15 releasably adhered to said second fastener by a releasable seal.

12. The fastener arrangement of claim 1 wherein each of said fasteners further comprise a first fin extending downward from said male profile and a second fin extending downward from said female profile, one of said fins of said first fastener being releasably adhered to one of said profiles of said second fastener.

13. The fastener arrangement of claim 12 wherein said first fin and said  
20 second fin are joined to each other along a one-time breakable preferential area of weakness.

14. A sheet of zippers for use in manufacturing recloseable packages, said sheet of zippers comprising:  
25 a first zipper comprising a first male track with a first male profile and a first female track with a first female profile, said first male and first female profiles being releasably engageable to each other;  
a first slider slidably mounted to said first zipper for movement between a closed position and an open position, said first male and first female profiles being

engaged to each other while said first slider is in said closed position, said first male and first female profiles being disengaged from each other in response to movement of said first slider from said closed position to said open position;  
a second zipper comprising a second male track with a second male profile and a  
5 second female track with a second female profile, said second male and second female profiles being releasably engageable to each other; and  
a second slider slidably mounted to said second zipper for movement between a closed position and an open position, said second male and second female profiles being engaged to each other while said second slider is in said closed position, said second  
10 male and second female profiles being disengaged from each other in response to movement of said second slider from said closed position to said open position, said second zipper being releasably connected to said first zipper.

15. The sheet of claim 14 wherein said first zipper and said second zipper each have a length approximately equal to a width of said recloseable package.

15 16. The sheet of claim 14 wherein said first zipper is releasably adhered to said second zipper by a releasable adhesive.

17. The sheet of claim 14 wherein said first zipper is releasably adhered to said second zipper by a releasable seal.

20 18. The sheet of claim 14 wherein said first male and female tracks of said first zipper are substantially parallel to said second male and female tracks of said second zipper.

25 19. The sheet of claim 14 wherein each of said zippers further comprises a first fin extending downward from said male profile and a second fin extending downward from said female profile, one of said fins of said first zipper being releasably adhered to one of said profiles of said second zipper.

20. The sheet of claim 18 wherein said sheet is wrapped about a roll having a longitudinal axis, said first and said second male and female tracks are substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.

21. The sheet of claim 14 second fastener are rolled into a cylinder having a longitudinal axis, said male and female tracks of said first and said second zippers are substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.

22. A zipper arrangement for use in manufacturing recloseable bags, said  
5 zipper arrangement comprising:

a male track with a male profile;

a female track with a female profile, said male and female profiles being  
releasably engageable to each other; and

10 a plurality of sliders slidably mounted to said engageable male and female tracks for movement between a closed position and an open position, said male and female profiles being engaged to each other while said slider is in said closed position, said male and female profiles being disengaged from each other in response to movement of said slider from said closed position to said open position.

23. The zipper arrangement of claim 22 wherein a first slider is positioned a  
15 distance approximately equal to a width of one of said recloseable bags away from a second slider.

24. The zipper arrangement of claim 22 wherein one of said sliders is positioned in a length of said male and female track corresponding to a width of one of said recloseable bags.

20 25. The zipper arrangement of claim 22 wherein said zipper arrangement is wrapped around a roll.

26. The zipper arrangement of claim 22 wherein one of said sliders is positioned in a length of said male and female track corresponding to a width of one of said recloseable bags such that when wrapped in a roll said zipper arrangement  
25 occupies a minimal amount of space by preventing adjacent layers of zipper arrangement on said roll from stacking sliders on top of each other.

27. A method of manufacturing recloseable packages, said method comprising:  
providing a first wall panel opposing a second wall panel;

positioning a zipper between said first and second wall panels, said zipper including a first track with a first profile and a second track with a second profile, said first and second profiles being releasably engageable to each other, and a slider slidably mounted to said zipper for movement between a closed position and an open position, said first and second profiles being engaged to each other while said slider is in said closed position, said first and second profiles being disengaged from each other in response to movement of said slider from said closed position to said open position;

5 adhering said first profile of said zipper to said first wall panel;

10 forming first and second spaced side seals in said web to define first and second sidewalls of said package;

adhering said second profile of said zipper to said second wall panel; and

cutting said web along said side seals to separate adjacent packages.

28. The method of claim 27 further including a step of feeding a zipper arrangement between said first and second wall panels before positioning said zipper, said zipper arrangement comprising a plurality of said zippers connected in line with each other.

15

29. The method of claim 27 further including a step of feeding a zipper sheet of said zippers to between said first and second wall panels before positioning said zipper, said sheet of zippers comprising a plurality of said zippers releasably adhered to each other.

20

30. The method of claim 27 wherein said zipper is positioned and said first profile of said zipper is adhered to said first wall panel before providing said first and second wall panels.

31. The method of claim 27 further including a step of filling said package with a product through a mouth of said web after forming said first and second side seals.

25

32. The method of claim 27 wherein said first and second wall panels are provided by folding a web of material.

33. The method of claim 27 wherein said zipper is positioned at a mouth of said first and second wall panels.

34. The method of claim 33 further including a step of filling said package with a product through said mouth before adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

35. The method of claim 27 wherein said zipper is positioned below and adjacent a mouth of said first and second wall panels.

36. The method of claim 35 further including a step of filling said package with a product through said mouth before adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

37. The method of claim 27 wherein said zipper is positioned at a bottom of said first and second wall panels.

38. The method of claim 37 further including a step of filling said package with a product through said mouth after adhering said first profile to said first wall panel and after adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

39. The method of claim 31 wherein said side seals are cut before filling said package with said product.

40. The method of claim 31 wherein said side seals are cut after filling said package with said product.

## ABSTRACT

A plurality of fastener arrangements for use in manufacturing recloseable bags comprising a first fastener and a second fastener connected to the first fastener. Each of said fasteners comprising a male track with a male profile, a female track with a female profile and a slider. The male and female profiles are releasably engageable to each other. The slider is slidably mounted to the fastener for movement between a closed position and an open position. The male and female profiles are engaged to each other while the slider is in the closed position. The male and female profiles are disengaged from each other in response to movement of the slider from the closed position to the open position.

Fig. 1

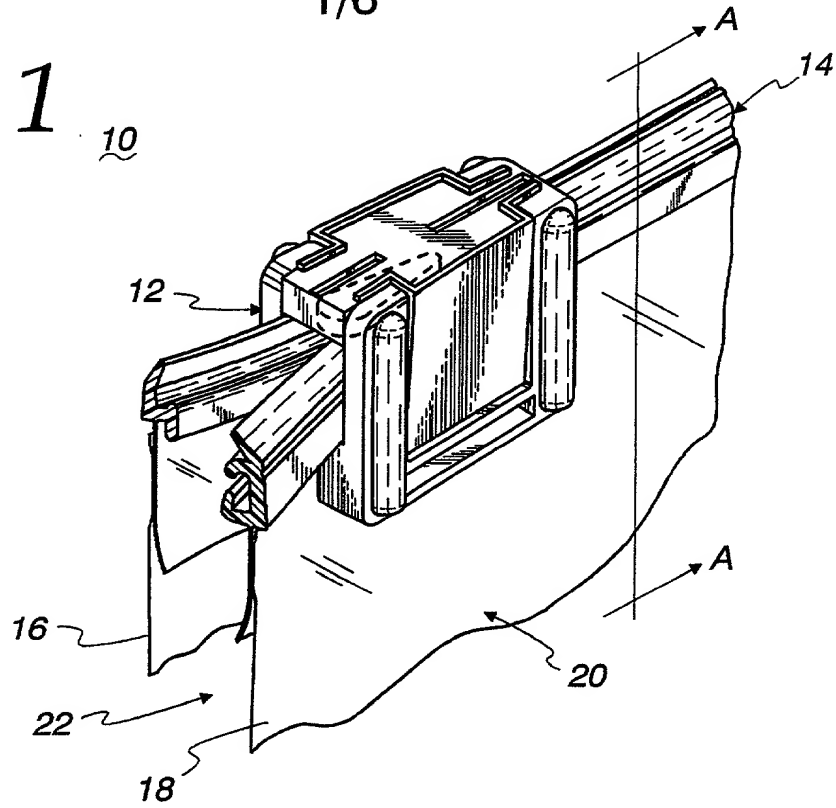
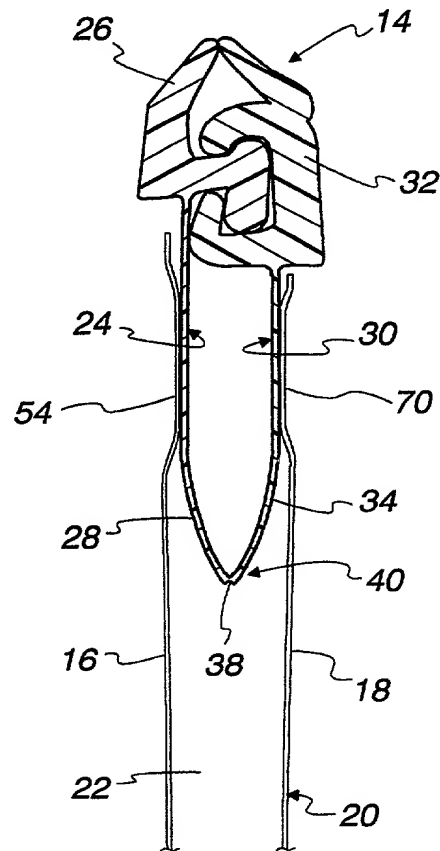


Fig. 2





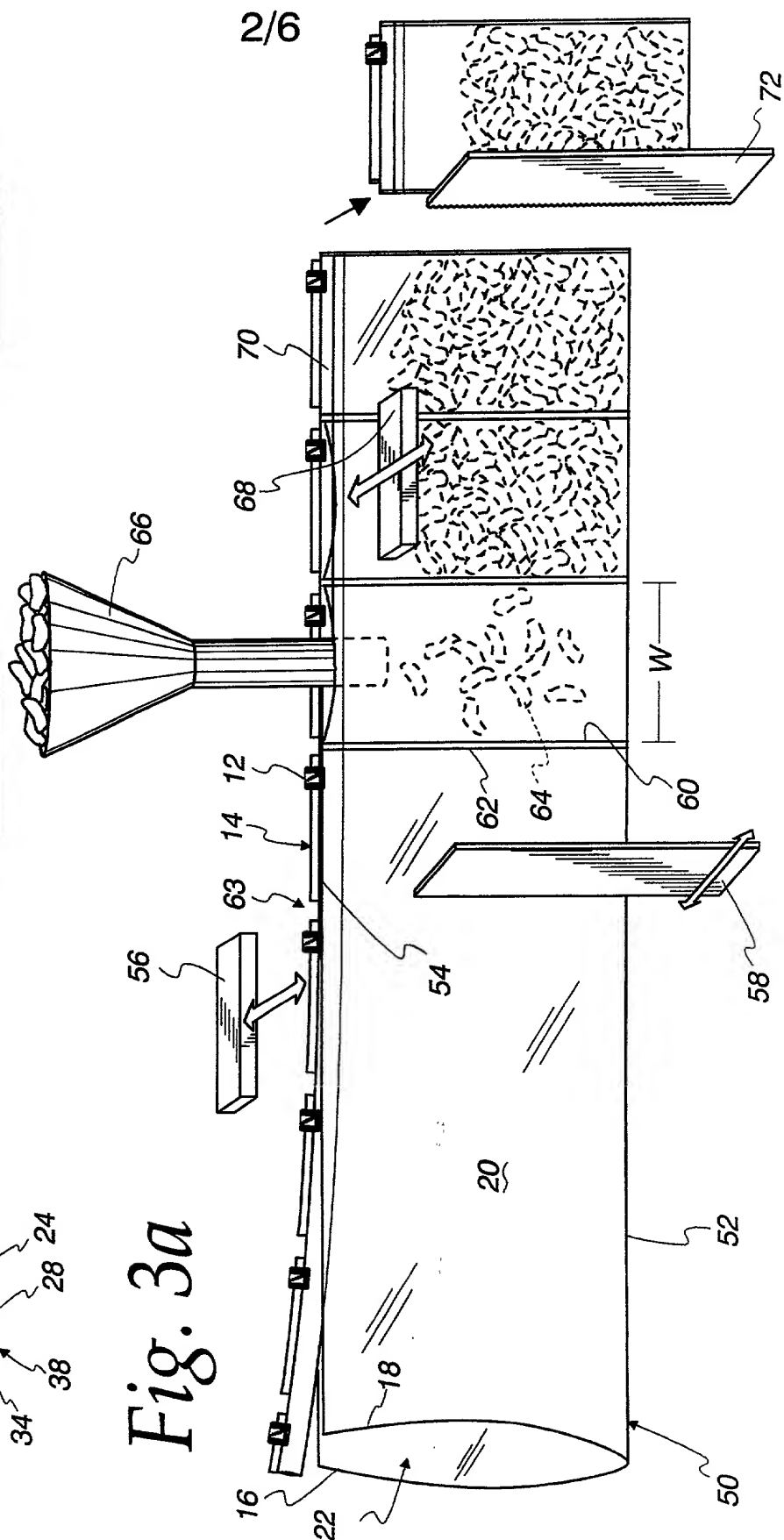


Fig. 3b

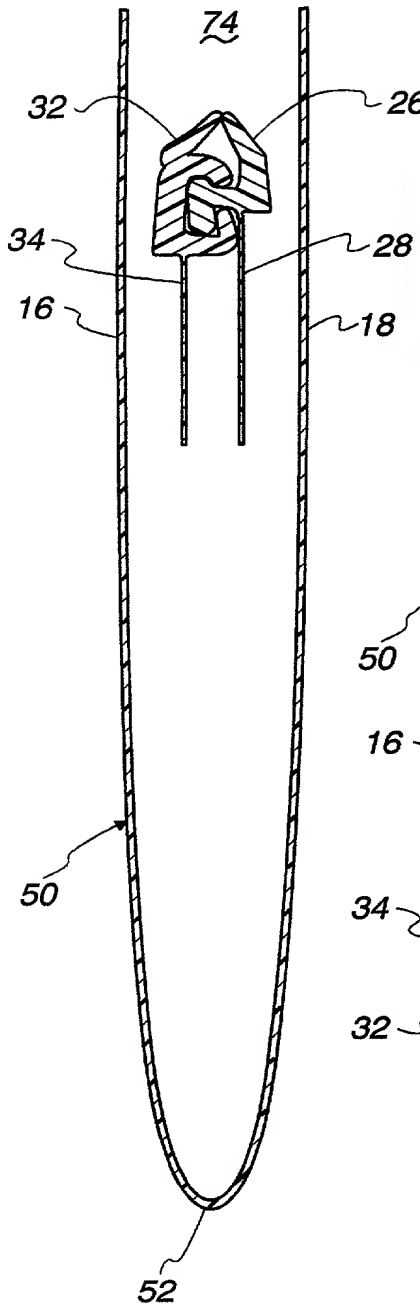


Fig. 3c

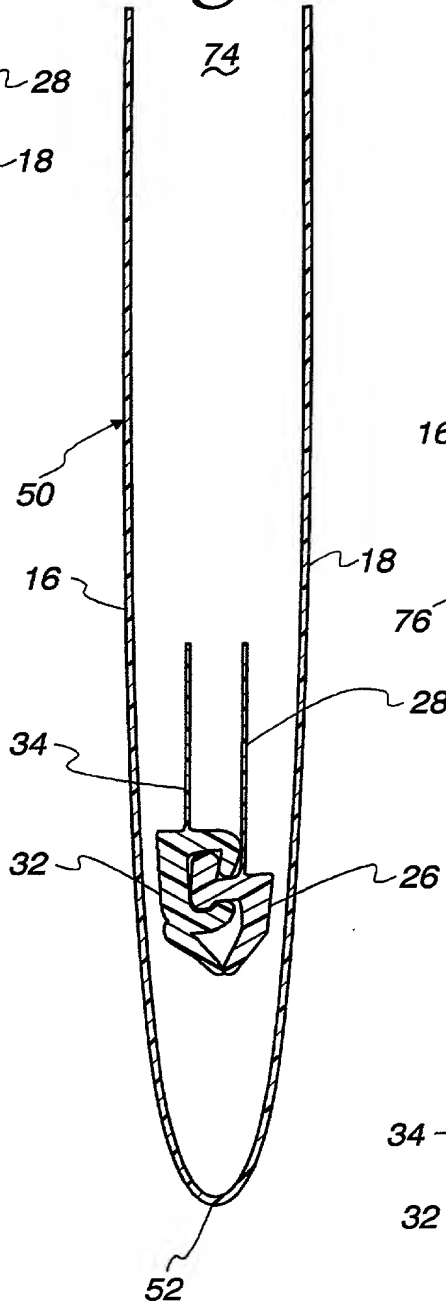
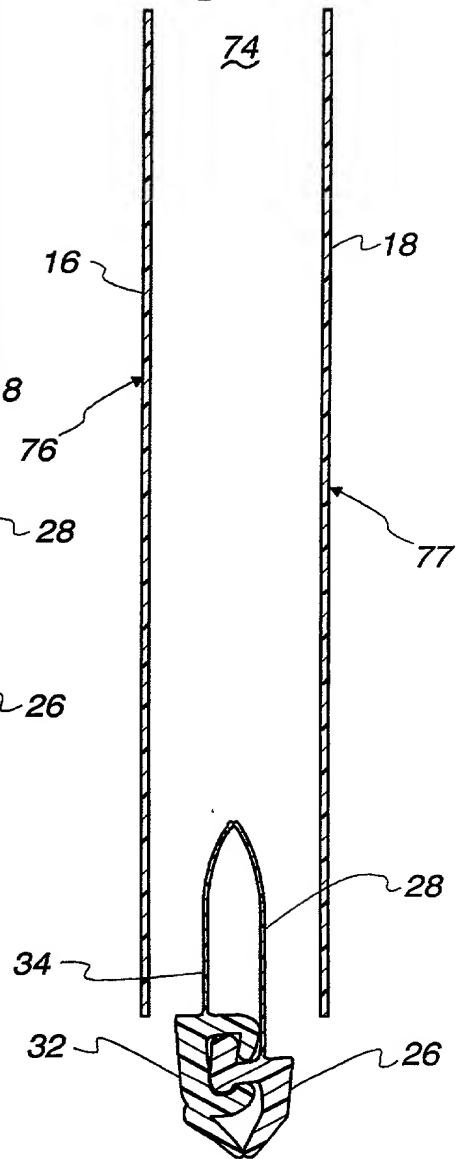


Fig. 3d



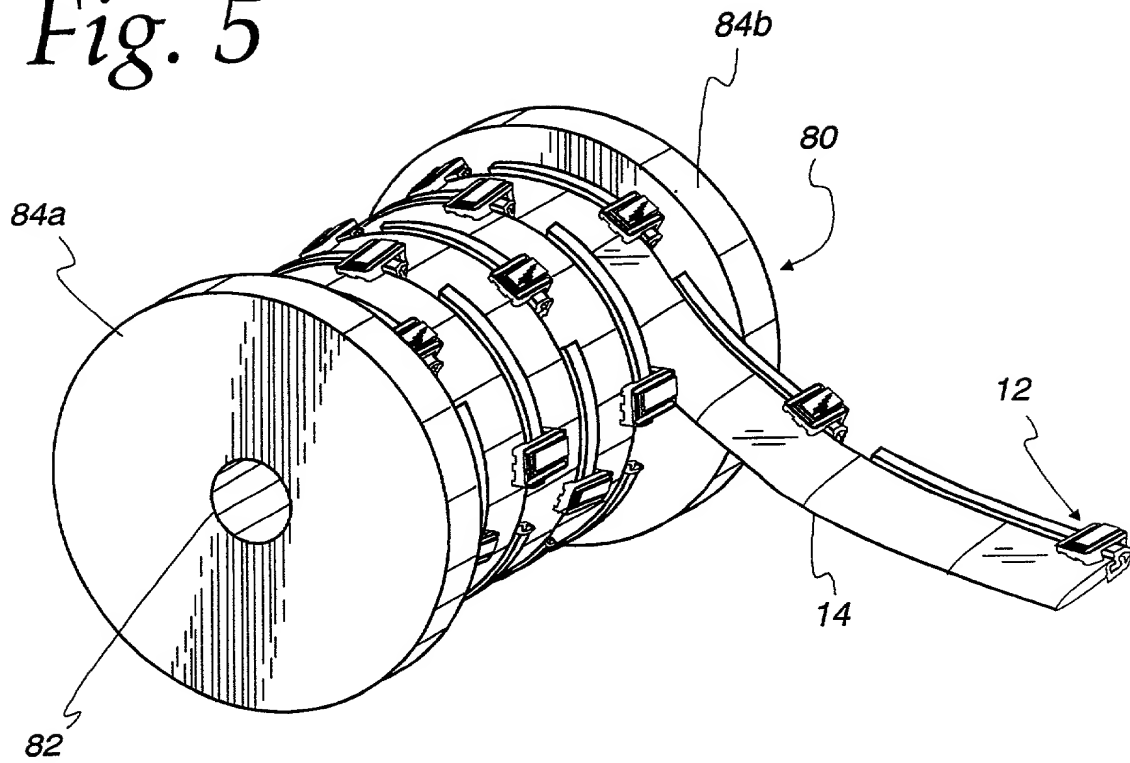
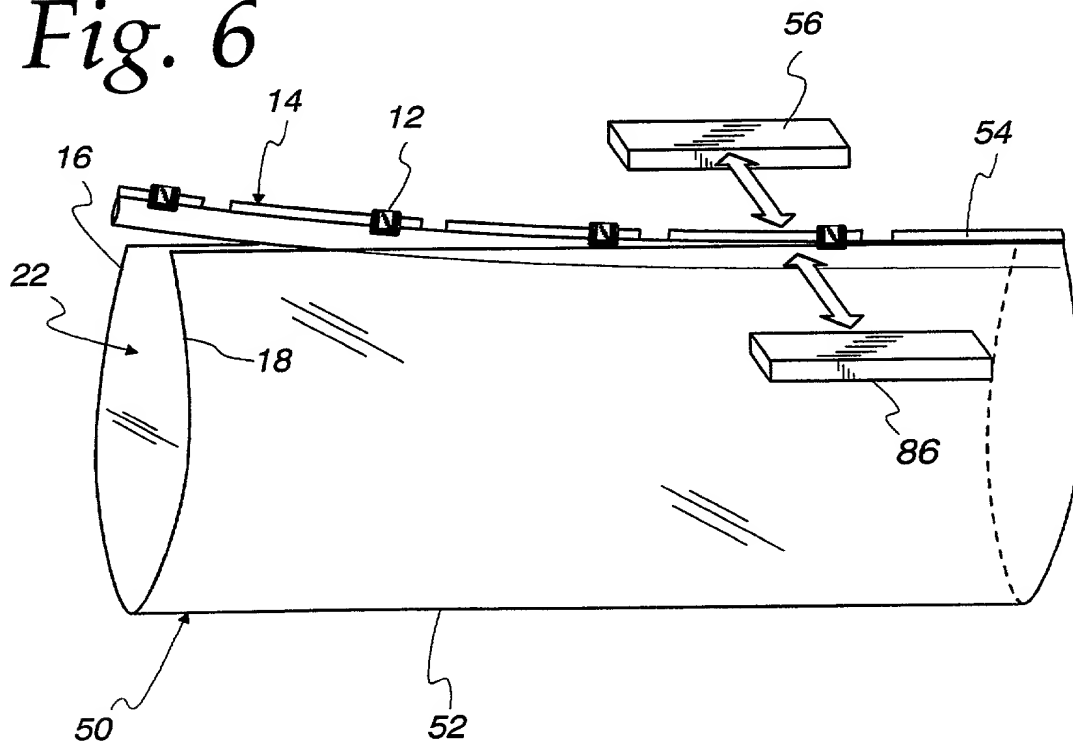
*Fig. 5**Fig. 6*

Fig. 7

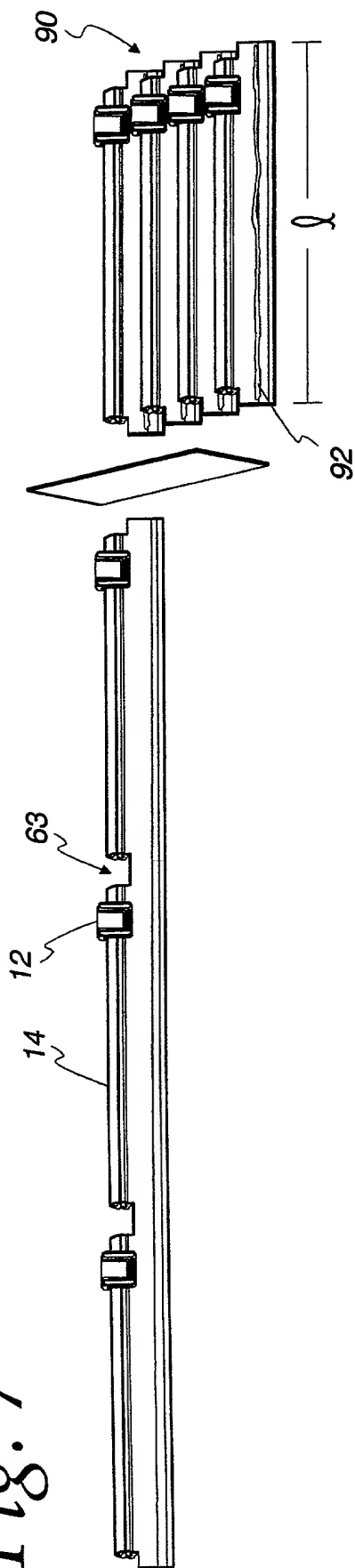


Fig. 8a

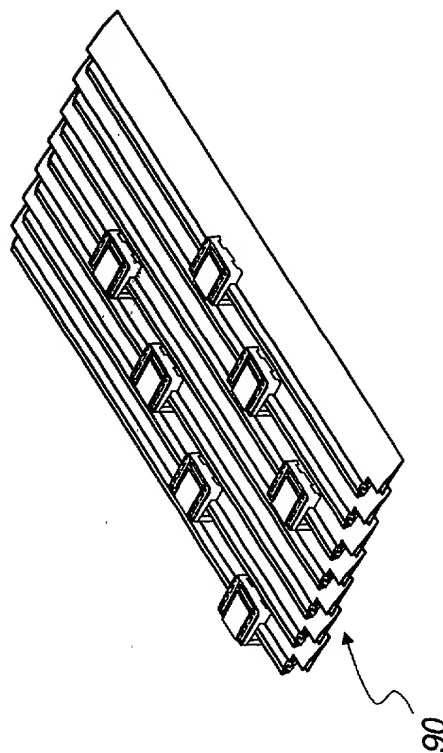
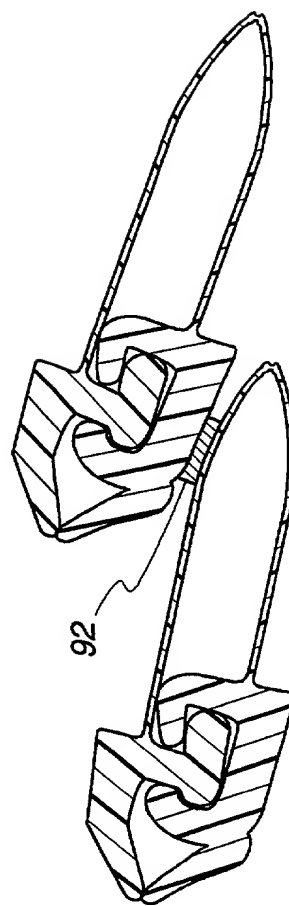
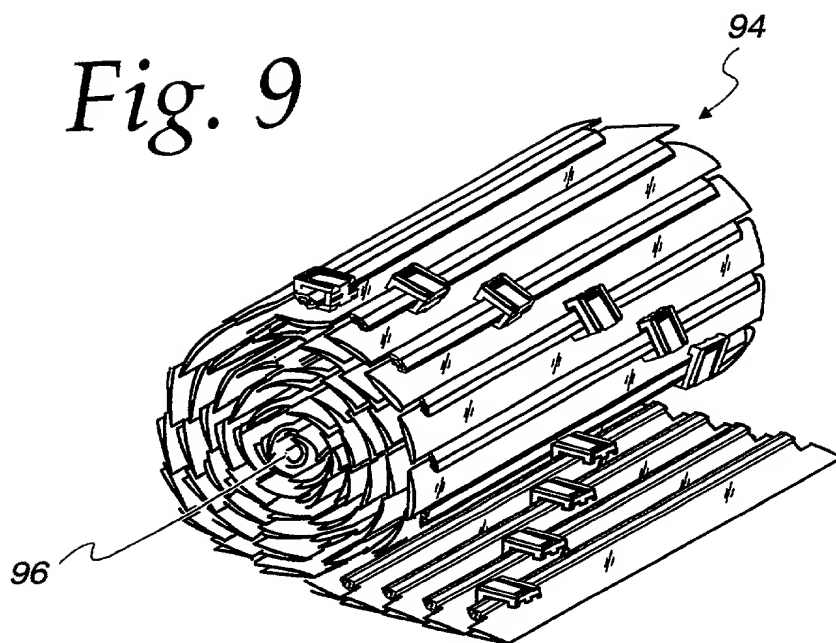
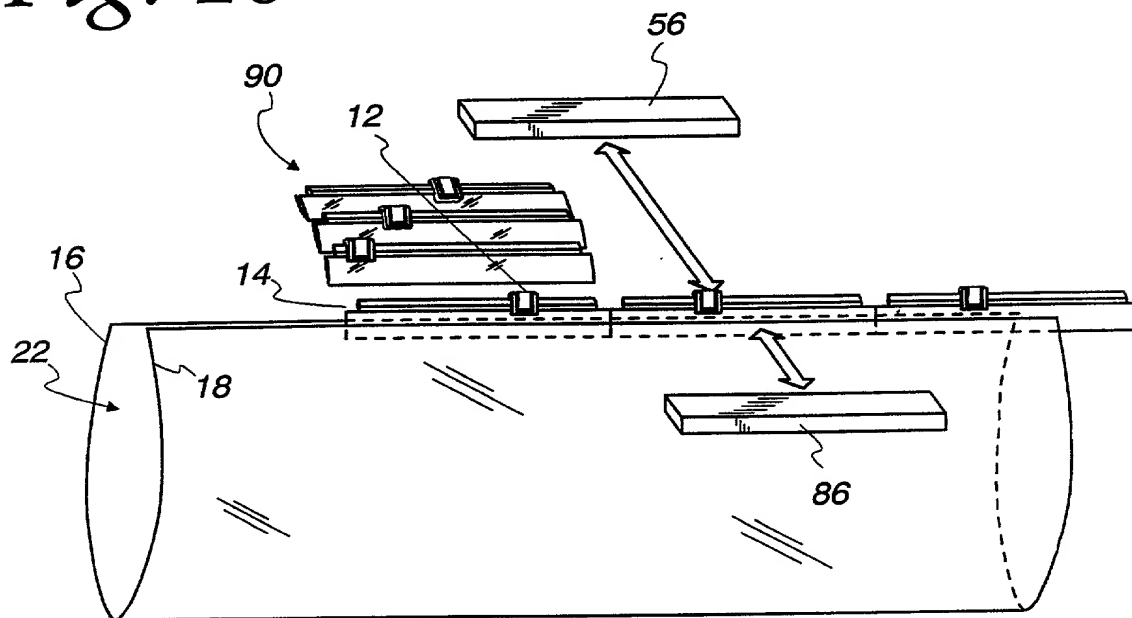


Fig. 8b



*Fig. 9**Fig. 10*

DECLARATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or the below named inventors are the original, first and joint inventors (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled FASTENER WITH SLIDER THEREON FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING RECLOSEABLE BAGS the Specification of which:

☒ is attached hereto.  
☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability of the subject matter claimed in this application, as "materiality" is defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent, United States provisional application(s), or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent, United States provisional application, or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

**PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)**

**Priority  
Claimed**

(Number)	(Country)	(Date Filed)	Yes/No
(Number)	(Country)	(Date Filed)	Yes/No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability of the subject matter claimed in this application, as "materiality" is defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56, which become available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (Status)

(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (Status)

I hereby direct that all correspondence and telephone calls be addressed to Ronald B. Coolley, Arnold, White & Durkee, P.O. Box 4433, Houston, Texas 77210, (312) 744-0090.

I hereby declare that all statements made of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Inventor's Full Name:	Kirk	E.	Belmont
Inventor's Signature:	<i>Kirk E Belmont</i>		
Country of Citizenship:	U.S.A.	Date:	5/6/99
Residence Address: (street, number, city, state, and/or country)	70 Clarke's Crossing Fairport, New York 10455		
Post Office Address: (if different from above)			

Inventor's Full Name:	Ian	J.	Barclay
Inventor's Signature:	<i>Ian Barclay</i>		
Country of Citizenship:	U.S.A.	Date:	5/6/99
Residence Address: (street, number, city, state, and/or country)	3093 Parker Road Marion, New York 14505		
Post Office Address: (if different from above)			

DECLARATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or the below named inventors are the original, first and joint inventors (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled FASTENER WITH SLIDER THEREON FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING RECLOSEABLE BAGS the Specification of which:

☒ is attached hereto.  
☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability of the subject matter claimed in this application, as "materiality" is defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent, United States provisional application(s), or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent, United States provisional application, or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)			Priority Claimed
(Number)	(Country)	(Date Filed)	Yes/No
(Number)	(Country)	(Date Filed)	Yes/No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability of the subject matter claimed in this application, as "materiality" is defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56, which become available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:



(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (Status)

(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (Status)

I hereby direct that all correspondence and telephone calls be addressed to Ronald B. Coolley, Arnold, White & Durkee, P.O. Box 4433, Houston, Texas 77210, (312) 744-0090.

I hereby declare that all statements made of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Inventor's Full Name:	Kirk	E.	Belmont
Inventor's Signature:	<i>Kirk E Belmont</i>		
Country of Citizenship:	U.S.A.	Date:	<i>5/6/99</i>
Residence Address: (street, number, city, state, and/or country)	70 Clarke's Crossing Fairport, New York 10455		
Post Office Address: (if different from above)			

Inventor's Full Name:	Ian	J.	Barclay
Inventor's Signature:	<i>Ian J Barclay</i>		
Country of Citizenship:	U.S.A.	Date:	<i>5/6/99</i>
Residence Address: (street, number, city, state, and/or country)	3093 Parker Road Marion, New York 14505		
Post Office Address: (if different from above)			